

MINUTES
Druid Hills Civic Association
Board of Directors Meeting
7:30PM Wednesday, January 9, 2008
Emory's 1784 N. Decatur Road Building

Call to Order, Recognition of Guests: **Bruce MacGregor**, President, called the meeting to order, welcomed members and guests, and declared that a quorum was present.

Secretary's Report (approval of minutes): Minutes of the November 14, 2007 and December 12, 2007 meetings were approved.

First Vice President's Report

Land Use/Zoning Update

"Pure" Night Club in the Williamsburg Shopping Center at Briarcliff and Clairmont Roads: The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) ruled in favor of the neighborhood's assertion of certain zoning code violations, including no kitchen and inadequate parking. The County attorney who was assigned to the BZA said he did not agree with the decision and did not plan to enforce it. (See Minutes of December 12, 2007 meeting). Now the club has sued the Sagamore Hills Civic Association and its president. A motion was made to contribute \$1000.00 to the SHCA legal defense fund with the understandings that DHCA will be reimbursed if they recover legal fees, and that the Executive Committee will have leeway to do something more if needed before the next meeting. The motion passed without opposition. DHCA will stay in touch with the situation via CAN. It was observed that the County does not seem to be enforcing zoning requirements as to clubs and "event centers."

Relocation of Emory Hospital, Clinic and Research Center: The proposed relocation to the Clairmont campus would be in the best interests of our neighborhood; the liaison committee should be asked to communicate with Emory regarding the proposal. A motion was approved to commend Emory for originating and considering the proposal.

Proposed Parks Committee: A motion was approved to create a Parks Committee to oversee the development of parks in the Druid Hills neighborhood. It will be an ad hoc committee under the Land Use and Zoning Committee until the by-laws can be changed to make it a standing committee. **Doug Grimm** will be the committee chair, with **Becky Evans** as the point person for Burbank Park and **Julie Ralston** the point person for the Mann property. Our liaison with OLPA will also be pulled into this committee. DHCA has been advised that the County has no interest in pursuing acquisition of the Daniels' property for a park, so it is off the table.

The proposed **Lot Merger Ordinance** is on the BOC agenda for next Tuesday, January 22nd.

North DeKalb Mall: It was announced that a COSTCO store will be incorporated into the mall, and that the mall may be converted to Mixed-Use.

Suburban Plaza: It was also announced recently that the City of Decatur is considering annexing Suburban Plaza and **Emory Commons**.

Historic Preservation

Redesignation of the Druid Hills Historic District: **Alida Silverman** and **Chris Leeth** attended a meeting with Commissioners Rader and Gannon regarding the redesignation of the DHHD. Reasons given were the absence of original signatures on the enabling documents, and an abundance of caution. There also seem to be other, unarticulated, reasons. The Law Department did not want the staff to undertake this project, so an RFP has been issued. **Chris Leeth** reviewed the RFP and found it lacking in specificity/detail. Boundaries would remain the same, but they are now talking about a 50-year rolling period, which could have an effect on Chelsea Heights.

Chelsea Heights: Dale Jaeger's special character area study was essentially rejected by the neighborhood. They are now approaching the issues another way.

Emory Village: John Hudson reported that he learned from AIEV that construction of the round-about will start this summer. Right-of-way is being acquired now; AIEV will post updates on its web page.

Administrative Vice President's Report – Thomas Winn

The **Annual Meeting** will be on Sunday, February 17th; the next **Board Meeting** will be a week early, on Wednesday, February 13th. Notice of both meetings will be posted on the website.

Tour of Homes and Gardens and Artist Market: All board members should volunteer.

Community and Lifestyle Committee: **Becky Evans** reported that Committee is working on a suggestion to have a neighborhood cheering zone for the ING Marathon.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Shuey, Secretary